



August, 1991

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## Many Questions Remain After Hill Bus Crash

By Ruth Passen

An out-of-control tour bus careened down Connecticut Street July 22 and slammed into the Potrero Terrace Children's Center, killing the driver, 27 year old Khaled Sayeg. School had closed for the day virtually minutes before the accident occurred at 5:50 p.m.

Witnesses in the vicinity claim that Sayeg had been involved in an altercation on the bus with several people in an area at the top of the Connecticut Street hill moments before the accident.

When those people left the bus, witnesses said that the driver sped his bus down towards 25th Street where it jumped the curb and onto the grass in front of the public housing office at 1095 Connecticut St., hit concrete slabs across 25th where a bus shelter had once stood, knocked down a fence and took off into the air at least 10 feet before dropping down onto the area behind the Children's Center and into the building where the bus finally came to rest. Driver Sayeg was thrown out of the bus and landed in the yard of a former basketball court next to the Center.

One 11 year old boy told the View that he was riding his bicycle when he saw the bus "going side to side" down Connecticut Street. The youngster said the driver had "been cut and blood was all over his face." He then rode his bike around over to 25th Street, and watched the bus cut across the lawn, "saw it jump high. I hit my brakes, got to the corner (Connecticut and 25th) and saw the man trying to get out, yelling 'help, help.'" The youngster said that the driver "jumped out of the bus while it was in the air, and the wind took his body back" onto the ground.

No official cause of this accident has been determined, and a police investigation is under way. It has been learned that in 1989, Sayeg pleaded guilty to possession of cocaine for sale, and received a four year suspended sentence and probation.

Several witnesses spoke of "drug deals" with drivers of commercial buses regularly taking place in the area where the altercation and the accident occurred.

Meanwhile, the Children's Center has found temporary classroom space at nearby Starr King Elementary School on Wisconsin Street. The day care center, in existence for over 40 years, is operated by the San Francisco Unified School District, and has been a first school for many generations of families living in the area. Though the majority of students — aged 3-8 — live on Potrero Hill, some students come from the Mission and Bayview/Hunters Point communities.

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Tom Sammon and School Board member Tom Ammiano visited the accident site on July 23 and indicated that the damaged building may have to be demolished and rebuilt. Sammon suggested that money to rebuild might be obtained from Prop A or Prop B, or "if there's insurance money," as in a disaster "like the 1989 earthquake," he said.

"The school will continue to follow routine and continuation of curriculum in a safe environment" at the Starr King School, Sammon stressed. He watched district personnel and school staff help move items out of the destroyed building.

Many neighbors volunteered to care for the Center's plants and animals until a permanent home can be found for the day care facility. The Children's Center will be able to stay at the Starr King site only until the fall semester.

At Starr King School the staff and students are trying to carry on with regular routines, but there are obvious problems. Barbara Radaikin, Social Worker with the Child Development Department of the School District, told the View that some children suffered nightmares and hadn't returned to school. The District plans to establish crisis sessions to help both teachers and students overcome fears and anxieties related to the accident.



Investigating the scene of a bus crash into the Potrero Terrace Children's Center July 22 is Assistant Superintendent of Schools Tom Sammon. The impact of the accident forced the bus through the building and it came to rest in the interior against a clothes closet containing items belonging to staff.

Ruth Passen photo

## Homeless, Housing Issues Spark Hill Mayoral Debate

By Judy Baston

More than 150 people jammed the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House Theatre July 29 to hear Mayor Art Agnos and Mayoral challengers Assessor Richard Hongisto and former Police Chief Frank Jordan.

The two-hour-long session, which was sponsored by the Potrero Hill Democratic Club, was moderated by San Francisco Examiner columnist Stephanie Salter. Although the verbal fireworks that have marked previous candidates' sessions during this mayoral election were rarely ignited during the Hill forum, it was indeed possible to discern some major differences among the candidates on key city issues.

Throughout the evening, for example, Jordan repeatedly attacked the way the city is handling the homeless problem, and charged, "We're attracting the home-

less like a magnet because we say we're going to solve the problem. All roads lead to San Francisco; we're only bringing people here and our well of resources isn't limitless."

Agnos admitted that solving the homeless crisis will require more housing and a system to get people from the street to the housing and the programs. "But force isn't going to do it," he stressed. "You can't treat homelessness like a toxic oil spill where you vacuum people up and shove them out of sight, out of mind."

Hongisto said, "I understand that some of the shelters are dangerous," and emphasized that not everyone currently on the streets is able to find a way to seek help.

Jordan differed with the other two on the issue of vacancy control. Agnos recently signed legislation limiting to 10-20 percent increases on rental units that

(Continued on Page 5)



Mayor Art Agnos emphasizes a point in a panel discussion with mayoral contenders Frank Jordan and Richard Hongisto (left to right), at a well attended Potrero Hill Democratic Club evening at the Neighborhood House July 29.

Judy Baston photo



## OUR READERS WRITE



### Sound Wall Sham?

Editor:

The new "sound wall" constructed by Cal Trans between 18th Street and Mariposa is a sham! Before the construction, I had some highway noise along the 18th Street side of my home. Now, not only is there an increase on that side, I have more noise on the west and north sides.

The highway noise has changed considerably. You now hear the traffic coming off in the distance. It gets louder the closer it gets to you. I am not a "sound expert" but it seems common sense that the sounds are now being reflected up the side of the hill, causing more noise to people who didn't experience it before.

A Cal Trans "environmental expert" told me they measure the sound before the construction and after. According to their readings, the noise is down. But guess what? It is not measured away from the wall, it is measured on the Highway 101 side of the wall and near the area on the east side of the wall. If you talk with neighbors that live in their area they also

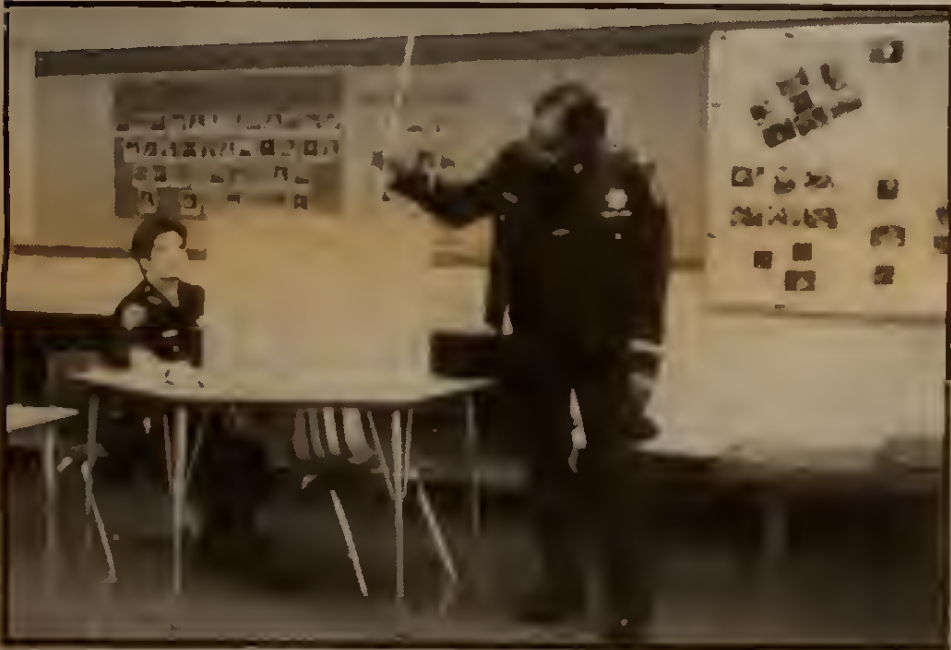
say that there has been no improvement in sound reduction.

What has been accomplished by their expensive project? We now have a prison-like wall, which will not be planted by Cal Trans on the San Bruno Avenue side. The homes that were supposed to have improved noise protection don't and others like myself have had an increase in noise.

I urge my neighbors south of 18th Street along San Bruno Avenue to attend the Cal Trans meeting at the Potrero Middle School -- August 8th from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. They will be fielding questions concerning more wall construction. Be sure to ask where they are going to measure sound before construction. Volunteer to have them measure in your home before and after the construction. And most of all, don't accept their line that the noise you are hearing is different after the construction. It's still noise and it is louder.

Steve Reuss  
18th Street

## REDISTRICTING



Potrero Station Capt. Richard Holder and Beat Patrol Officer Dorothy Shurtleff explain new city police redistricting proposal -- the first change in 50 years -- to July meeting of Potrero Hill Democratic Club. Even though the remapping shrunk the Potrero District by removing the Sunnydale area from its coverage, there are still some 80 officers working out of the Potrero Station, and Holder says he's looking for a staff of nearly 120. Shurtleff participates in one of six foot patrols in the District, which now stretches from China Basin to Hunters Point, and, said Holder, "I want her to know everyone on Potrero Hill."

Ruth Passen photo



The chartered bus that crashed into the Potrero Terrace Children's Center July 22 came to a stop inside the building after destroying the north wall and a staff clothes closet.

Ruth Passen photo

## Crash Reactions: Horror Now Taken for Granted?

By Ruth Passen

After the July 22 bus accident in the public housing sector of Potrero Hill, members of the immediate community -- both old and young -- were quick to relate to the media grisly details of the victim's final moments, as well as how his body looked in its final resting place.

Frequently, the lurid details were offered in a matter-of-fact tone, with little or no horror, no outrage, no anger that the

making them prisoners in their own homes. Some Potrero Hill residents find other, circuitous routes away from the streets where they know drug business occurs. Violence and crime are accepted as a way of life, especially by youngsters.

And when drivers of large vehicles come into the area for the express purpose of finding and buying drugs, whose lives become imperiled? According to reports, the driver who was killed on July 22 had just returned from the airport where he had deposited some travelers and was slated to pick up other tourists later that evening. If drugs are purchased, are they used immediately -- imperiling the safety of others?

It is chilling to listen to small children discuss this accident, in which "the driver's brains were laying on the ground next to his head," and hear them tell about drug dealing. I want to scream out to someone: What kind of adult-generation will we be facing when violence is so taken for granted by children? Where is the "kinder, gentler nation" going to be when now violence is perpetuated daily and children watch on television, in the news and programming, as well as at movies? Drugs are a war on people -- and our neighborhoods have become the battlegrounds.

Would this accident have had to take place just 15 minutes earlier -- injuring or even killing scores of children -- for people to scream out and say, "Stop -- we've had enough."?

### Personal View

death may have been triggered by a possible drug deal gone bad. For the most part, there was a shrug of the shoulders, and the resigned admission that "it happens all the time."

Have frustration and anger by many in the neighborhood given way to the attitude, "What can we do about it?" Drug-related mishaps appear to be everyday occurrences. Although I know parents are worried, there seems to be primarily resignation at the lack of control.

But effects of the drug business is hurting people's lives in so many other ways: Mothers fear for their children's well-being and refuse to let them out to play after school or in the evenings, thus

Does it really make sense for the state to tax this and other non-profit newspapers?



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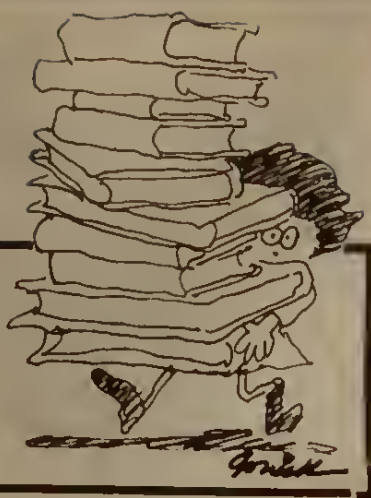
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Since this is my last column for the **View**, it seems appropriate to talk about futures. I've just finished reading "The Personal Computer Book", a witty guide for novices by Peter McWilliams. His chapter, "A Research Library Etched by a Laser", describes all the fun he has using his computer to search standard reference sources on CD-ROM. He whips into "Bartlett's Familiar Quotations" for a quote that he then copies into his text with a couple of keystrokes, zones in on facts from almanacs or encyclopedias and zaps a zip code onto an address in seconds.

Remember my little hint about a donation for the "Oxford English Dictionary?" (Actually, if you had given the library the \$2,000 it costs, I would have bought something else anyway). With the "OED" on CD-ROM hooked up to your computer you can search all the many volumes (Peter says 2,347, but that's his little joke) from your keyboard.

If you have used the "Magazine Index" or other indexes from Information Access at the Main Library, you've seen how CD-ROM technology can zip through hundreds of references in seconds, compared to the slow plod through paper indexes.

"For the PC User, Vast Libraries," a July 3 article in the business section of the New York Times, describes exciting developments from Thinking Machines, Corp., Apple Computer, Dow Jones, and KPMG Peat Marwick to design a computer library called WAIS (Wide Area Information Servers) to provide easy access to vast libraries of information. What will this kind of development mean on Potrero Hill?

In a few years, you should be able to sit down at a computer in the Potrero Branch Library and look up the history of a word in the "OED". Or maybe you would rather flip through the catalog of the Library of Congress, or locate an illustration of a mole-rat for your latest artwork. You might be looking through a copy of the "OED" on CD-ROM located in the Main Library, or through a picture file in Philadelphia.

You wouldn't know or care where the information was, because you would have quick access to it from your library. The electronic network in the new Main Library will be the way branch library users will be able to tap all this information.

Did you see the July 17 article in **The Chronicle** describing the kick off "Main Campaign" to furnish and equip the new Main Library? We have a display and a new fact sheet describing the progress towards making our library a world class institution, and by 1995 when the new Main is built, the new technology will deliver improved service to all branches.

And what if you just want a good book, and never ever go looking for information? We are working toward a real online catalog, which will facilitate finding books. Our present circulating system is a vast improvement over the old days when you might have waited weeks for a book to be returned while another copy sat on the shelf in another branch. Now we can locate those copies and get them to you quicker, but our system is labor intensive. The library is not a supermarket, and even though we zap barc codes we can't process books and information as fast as packaged goods.

By Fall, however, you should be seeing some new terminals in the branch, as we start the transition to better automation. And eventually, you should be able to search the "OED," Library of Congress catalog, or Philadelphia picture file.

Debbie Jeffery, your new librarian, is a dedicated, experienced professional. I know that you'll give her as warm a welcome as you gave me almost three years ago. Please remember that she can't be two people at once, and if she is busy with children you may have to wait or return later to request books or information.

Remember that it was through your efforts that Potrero kept a librarian, and was not reduced to a reading center. We hope that future budgets will restore staff and hours to Potrero.

Since I grew up in a "little town that time forgot" in northern Wisconsin. I've been very comfortable in a neighborhood where strangers say hello on the street. I'm also going to miss Potrero's views and sunny skies in my new job at the Anza branch, so please come by and say hello if you're out in the Richmond.

Kay Roberts,  
Adult Services

Since August 3 is my last day as the official Children's librarian at the Potrero Branch, this will be my good-bye column. Some of you may remember another good-bye column that I wrote in 1988 when I thought I was being laid off, only to find that I had my job back two weeks later. This time I'm not being laid off but transferred to another library, due once again to a budget crisis.

Even though I'm sad about leaving, you should know how lucky I've felt to have worked in this friendly community for almost four years. At times I've felt like the proverbial Marian, the librarian from "The Music Man".

Although the setting is far more urban and culturally diverse than Marian's home town of Gary, Indiana, Potrero Hill has some of the positive features of a mythical small town that helped to make my job pleasant, not to mention even charming, at times. So much has been said about the sense of community here that I don't want to repeat it at the risk of sounding redundant, but I will risk sounding sentimental when I say that I will miss every one of you whom I've met through the library.

I've watched many of your children grow from infants at the lapsit to sturdy four year olds engrossed in stories at family storytime. I've also watched many preschoolers move from picture books to readers and on to longer fiction. It's difficult not to get attached to them and I hope they all become readers for a lifetime.

I will also leave here worrying about whether some of the kids to whom I've become attached will ever learn how to read. Illiteracy is a real problem on Potrero Hill and I've met many children who have been allowed to move into the upper grades without knowing how to read. I hope the community continues actively to support this library, for these kids most of all.

Don't forget about the summer reading program which goes through August 17. Not only can your child receive a pair of Giants tickets for reading eight books this summer, but reading 15 books will get his/her photo taken and immortalized on the library bulletin board. Any books they've read this summer can count towards these prizes.

There won't be any children's programs during the month of August while the new librarian gets settled. The infant/toddler lapsit (from birth to three yrs. old) will resume the first Wednesday in September and continue to meet every Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. Family story-

# TEN YEARS AGO

*In The View*

## MUNI ROUTE CHANGES RILE RESIDENTS

"Almost everyone is for better Muni service ... on someone else's street." Thus began a page-one story in the August, 1981, issue of the View. A group of citizens was up in arms over the City transit system's proposal to establish a new "Bay to Breakers" route called the "48-Quintara-24th St." Some 400 signatures of residents on Wisconsin, Arkansas and Dellaro Streets were gathered to protest the action, and emotionn charges were made complaining that "the peaceful special way of life on Potrero Hill was being destroyed." The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) was to make its final determination "possibly in October." Stay with this column for further developments.

## REPAIRS SLATED FOR SLIDING STREET

It was also reported on page one that after two years a portion of 26th St. between Kansas and Dellaro Streets was finally to be repaired. Sections of the street had broken away and slid down the steep embankment, closing that area to traffic, but a Western Pacific Railroad spokesman (the railroad's tracks run below the embankment) reported that they expected to have the problem resolved in "two or three months." The long delay in repairing the site had drawn the attention of Supervisor Nancy Walker who pushed for a resolution of the problem.

## PROJECT TENANTS TO WITHHOLD RENT

Unhappy with Housing Authority delays in addressing their grievances, a group of tenants of the Potrero Housing Project had decided to withhold their rent payments. They planned to deposit all rents into a trust account until "various safety hazards are corrected, unfair management policies are changed and vital building utilities are restored." Tenants' spokesperson Maybeline Hubbard said, "We've had all we can take. We get no recognition for anything and we're tired of it."

## AND SOME SHORTER ITEMS

In celebration of its being granted City Landmark Status, the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House (Nabe) was planning a day of artistic activity August 30. Following the dedication and installation of a bronze sculpture by the late Blanche Phillips there was to be an art auction with work donated by Bay Area artists ... The Board of Supervisors approved changing the name of Kansas Street, between Division and 15th Streets to Henry Adams Street in memory of the prime mover in the establishment of the Showplace-Galleria-Trade Center complex at the foot of the Hill. Adams had died in May of 1981. Now, about that griffin (?) in the traffic circle ... ? Pete Chiotras shared a letter sent to the City's Planning Commission by the ILWU pensioners group supporting the Rhode Island Street grocery's efforts to keep their neon sign that had been in place for years. The sign is still there ... In the classified ads: "Found: Grey female cat with white marking on face and all four paws ... " Shucks, we were looking for a three-legged cat.

- Vas Arnautoff

time (for all ages) will also begin on the first Wednesday in September at 7 p.m.

Since our Tuesday morning open hours have been eliminated, preschool storytime will no longer meet on Tuesday mornings. Please bring your preschool child to family storytime! Films for preschoolers will be shown on Tuesday, September 10 at 10 a.m. even though the library will be closed.

Cathy Nyhan,  
Children's Librarian



## Talent Show

A Youth Expression Day at the Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St. on Aug. 18 highlights talented youngsters from the community who have completed a summer filled with activities.

The program line-up includes a fashion show, readings, and special performances by members of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House Girls Club.

Cost of admission to this event is \$1, and children under 12 years of age are admitted for 50 cents.

For more information call Joyce at 826-8080.

## Potrero Hill Neighborhood House

953 De Haro Street • San Francisco, California • (415) 826-8080

Inola D. Maxwell, Executive Director

### Ongoing Neighborhood House Community Meetings

Omega Boys Club • Full Meetings	1st & 3rd Thursdays	7:30 PM
Omega Weekly Meetings	Every Tuesday	7:30 PM
Potrero Hill Girls Club	Mondays	5:00 - 7:00 PM
Student Study Hall	Tuesdays	5:00 - 7:00 PM
Youth Council Meetings	Wednesdays	6:00 PM
AI • Abuse	Thursdays	6:30 - 7:30 PM
Alcohol Anonymous	Sat, Mon, & Thurs	8:30 PM
Cocaine Anonymous	Saturdays	6:00 - 7:00 PM

The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House offers ongoing programs for developmentally disabled adults which include basic education, cultural enrichment, consumer & health education, field trips, sensorimotor development, work training, group and individual counseling.

Senior Citizens enjoy hot meals every weekday at a nominal charge. Continuing senior programs include bingo games, information & referral counseling, social hour, games & recreation.

The "NABE" provides facilities & meeting space for use by community groups, individuals and businesses. These facilities include the auditorium for theatre presentations, lectures, workshops and wedding receptions.

Child care is available at the Child Development Center and the Potrero Hill Neighborhood Theatre produces scheduled performances throughout the year. Other community facilities include a mini-park, Arts & Crafts classes, Photography workshops and classes, a gymnasium and recreational space plus a bulletin board with job and event listings.

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## Cancer Screening at Clark Health Center

The Caleb G. Clark Potrero Hill Health Center held its third annual Breast Health Day July 9. This special cancer screening project was, once again, a big success, with 35 low income women participating. Each of the age 40-and-over women were required to first be seen by an MD or FNP at the center in the weeks prior to Breast Health Day.

At that earlier visit, they each went through several recommended annual cancer screening check-ups — specifically, breast exam, pelvic/Pap smear exam, and rectal exams. On the Breast Health Day itself, each woman received information about breast cancer, including nutritional issues, instruction in breast self-exam, and mammograms in the UCSF Mobile Mammogram Van.

This special outreach effort was similar to events held at several of the City's health centers this year. It was spearheaded by the Women's Cancer Network, a coalition of women from many health-related groups around town, including SFDPH, UCSF, the American Cancer Society (ACS), and the Community Clinic Consortium. Funding for the event, including subsidies for \$40 of the \$50 per mammogram charge, came from the SFDPH, ACS and other contributors. Ernestine Daniels, a PIHC patient, was hired by the Network and helped ensure a well-run operation.

Many women (and men) now understand that it makes sense to have regular

"screening" check-ups to detect serious problems early, when they are more likely to be treatable — or simply to assure themselves that they do not have such a problem. These Breast Health Days do exactly that. They also provide important information so people can help reduce their cancer risks themselves.

The Center will be having another Breast Health Day on December 10. Criteria for inclusion, designed to help reach those most in need and least likely to get such services are:

- \* Age 40 or over,
- \* No insurance, including Medical,
- \* No Mammogram within one year,
- \* An examination at PIHC (breast, pelvic...) prior to 12/10/91.

Anyone interested in the next Breast Health Day, and for ongoing primary health care, should call the Health Center at 648-3022.

Those women ineligible for PIHC's subsidized Breast Health Day mammograms can still get other women's health care at the Center. They will be referred elsewhere within the City for first and/or follow-up mammograms.

(For more than 15 years, the Center has provided comprehensive primary medical and dental care to residents of Potrero Hill and beyond, regardless of age, sex, income, insurance or health status.)

— Michael Drennan



Breast cancer screening was made available for low-income women July 9 at Potrero Hill's Caleb Clark Clinic when the University of San Francisco mobile mammogram van spent the day giving nutrition lectures as a preliminary to the actual screening. A technician explained to one of the women (above) the procedure she would experience at the diagnostic machine.

Ruth Passen photo

## Partial Respite for Dental Services at Hill Clinic

Dental service at Potrero Hill's Caleb Clark Clinic, originally slated to suffer an 80 percent cutback, has received a respite of sorts.

According to San Francisco Health Department Director Raymond Baxter, enough funds have been found to restore half the amount that was scheduled to be cut. This means that dental services will be cut back 40 percent instead of 80 percent.

This will still mean longer waits at the Clinic for adults to see dentists or dental assistants with no alternative dental care for the indigent.

Although Clinic staff are pleased that some funds for dental service have been restored, a number of patients at the Clinic stress that Hill residents can help seek further restoration by calling the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor's Office.

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## HILL APPOINTEE



Carolyn Tawasha posed with Mayor Art Agnos after she was sworn in as a member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Community Development. Tawasha, a Hill resident, and other committee members will recommend funding decisions on millions of dollars of federal money from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Jim Boldocchi photo

## Homeless, Housing Issues Spark Hill Mayoral Debate

(Continued from Page 1)

become vacant, with additional provisions for repair expenses and low-rent history. Jordan opposes vacancy control, which he calls "a disincentive." Hongisto says he "supports the existing vacancy control legislation," but also feels it is too weak. During his long tenure on the Board of Supervisors he refrained from voting on the issue because he owns rental income property. Supervisor Terence Hallinan, who receives income from a trust that includes rental property, voted for the current legislation despite a City Attorney ruling that such a vote might be questionable.

Agnos stressed that "affordable housing was one of the top priorities" of his administration, and noted in response to one question that he supported an increase in the real estate transfer tax covering transactions over \$300,000, "to go for more affordable housing and an increase in district police stations."

Both Hongisto and Jordan opposed this additional source of revenue. "Before the city asks citizens for more tax dollars, we have to contain costs; we shouldn't have any new taxes until then," Hongisto said. Jordan said he prefers to "evaluate the money we're spending now."

During the evening, Hongisto and Jordan took pains to paint themselves as far more fiscally conservative than Agnos. Jordan said as Mayor he would seek a "complete outside independent audit of all charity departments," and would "look at city employee job freezes, job sharing, furloughs, and

leaves of absence without pay to stabilize the coming budget. And Hongisto said he would "study each position in city government to see if it is really needed and justifiable."

Agnos responded that he wished he'd "heard these constructive criticisms before these people decided to run for Mayor. One was my Police Chief, the other my ally on the Board of Supervisors. Somehow they kept it all bottled up until now."

Hongisto noted his opposition to a downtown baseball stadium and accused Agnos of changing his mind on the issue. The Mayor clearly disagreed. "I opposed a 7th and Townsend site in 1987 because it was too close to Potrero Hill," Agnos pointed out, "but I made it clear even then I supported China Basin. The city is a place of choices -- people should be able to go to the opera, the pier, or the ballpark."

Jordan drew some anger from the crowd when he attacked the City's resolution declaring itself a sanctuary during the Persian Gulf War. "We have 200 demonstrations a year in San Francisco," he said. "Why did we have to create a sanctuary for the city and add \$1.2 million in police overtime?"

The former Police Chief said he "has no axe to grind" in the Mayoral race, but is running because "San Francisco is a magnificent city that has lost some of its tarnish."

Hongisto says he is making the race because he "wants to see the city beautified and cleaned up; to improve the way the city is managed." He is "preservationist and management-oriented," he told the Hill crowd.

And Agnos stressed that for him, "the test of government is not the ability to do more for those who already have a great deal, but whether you can do anything for those who have nothing and are working to improve themselves."



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BROOM BRIGADE



Armed with cleaning equipment supplied by the Dept. of Public Works, Potrero Hill's "Broom Brigade" swept and picked up debris and generally cleaned parts of the Hill that needed it. The Potrero Beautification Group, Potrero Boosters and Merchants Assn., and members of the San Francisco Clean City Coalition initiated the day's work on June 22, supplying a barbecue lunch at Jackson Playground for the workers. Other clean-up dates are planned for the future.

MUNI - BART Tix at NABE

MUNI and BART tickets are available at the Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St., Mondays through Fridays, during office hours of 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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FESTIVAL

Potrero Hill will celebrate its own Festival (the third year!) on October 19, and celebrants will listen, or dance, to live music, visit crafts booths, and eat some great food.

The special day will be held at the Daniel Webster schoolyard, Missouri and 20th Streets from 11 - 5 p.m.

The Festival is sponsored by the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House - a community center providing many multi-cultural and social programs - with funding from the San Francisco Arts Commission. Admission to the Festival will be free.

Anyone interested in booth information should call the Event Coordinator, Ruth Passen, at 826-8080.

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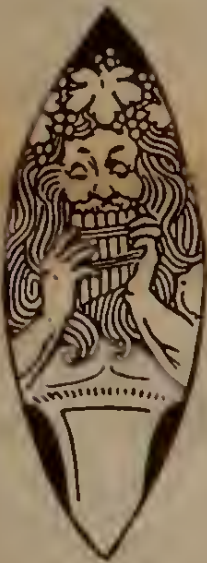


The Potrero Hill Theatre Ensemble is a non-profit, artist collaboration, located in the Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St. The Ensemble will meet Saturdays from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., beginning Aug. 10. Theatre games, exercises, scenework, monologues, play readings, guest lecturers, or teachers from the theatre community will be presented weekly. For more info contact Bea Smits-Addison, 826-8080 or 452-4674

City Planning Dept. spokesperson Inga Horton will answer questions regarding the proposed Residential Conservntion Rezoning Ordinance at the Aug. 15 meeting of P.L.A.N., at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St. This is the ordinance that will determine what can be demolished, newly constructed or renovated on the Hill.

"The Possibilities," a series of short sketches by British playwright Howard Barker, appears at the SOMAR Theatre, 934 Brannan St., from Aug. 2-11, at 8 p.m.

Cultural evenings around the Hill include: Harold Bradford at Goat Hill Pizza, 300 Connecticut St., Thursdays and Fridays; A special video screening in conjunction with an N.K. Russell installation, "The Incandescent Inferno," at Farley's Cafe, 1315-18th St. on Aug. 6 at 8 p.m.; and new restaurant "Trixie's," 2007-16th St., offers live jazz, 4-8 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays. House vocalists are Margie Baker and Fran Fosten; and lots of live jazz week-ends at The Ramp on China Basin.



Special congratulations to former Hill dweller Vernon Alley who was inducted into the Arts Wall of Fame July 19. Jazz bassist Alley is best known as the "grand-daddy of San Francisco Jazz," and is currently a member of the San Francisco Arts Commission. Other inductees include former member of the Vagabonds, Dominic Germano - the group being a North Beach quartet from the 40s and '50s; Richie Ferraris, pianist, accordionist and songwriter of the same era; and the late Tommy Harris, a popular vaudeville star and radio entertainer, as well as proprietor of the Tommy's Joynt restaurant. The Wall of Fame was created to commemorate great San Francisco artists and performers, and is located on the second floor of the Civic Auditorium.

Hill artist Joe Sam is showing mixed media paintings from the Leningrad-San Francisco Ecological Project at Gallery Route One at Point Reyes Station. His work, along with that of Philip Jameson and Margaret Herscher, inaugurates a series of exhibitions called "With the Earth: Arts and the Environment" at the gallery which will continue through 1992. It will focus on artists who integrate environmental concerns with the practice of art.



Budding musicians will be registering for the Fall 1991 quarter at the San Francisco Community Music Center on Sept. 12, 13 and 14 at two locations. The Mission District facility is at 544 Capp St. and the Richmond District branch is at 741 33th Ave. Classes will begin Sept. 19. Tuition fees are based on a sliding scale. Call 647-6015 for more info.



John Lennon's talent, humor, and love for his family are on display in an exhibit of the late musician's own pen and ink drawings at the Chapson Artsvision showroom in Showplace Design Center 489. Already open, the exhibit will continue through August 24. Chapson Artsvision is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Further info at 863-2117.

Free classes for smoking mothers under stress are being organized by the Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services. The classes will begin in the last of August in the Mission District and will be held in an informal support group format. These mothers will be able to relax, have fun and learn ways that will help them enjoy parenting and stop smoking as well. Pre-register at 565-7682.

The San Francisco Table Tennis Club is holding its Fifth Annual Table Tennis Tournament on August 24 and 25 at the Sunset Recreation Center at 28th Avenue and Lawton Street. The club holds its regular table tennis meets at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House on Monday and Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Chuck Smith will give you more info at 333-0947. And don't call it "ping pong."

A three-month Grooming College offered by the San Francisco SPCA helps people find a new career while transforming frowzy dogs and cats into appealing pets. Each student receives 420 hours of training, in classes of six people only, in all the basic grooming skills. Lynn Spivak can tell you more at 554-3000.

Children, teens and adults interested in learning how to use acrylic modeling compound for unique jewelry creations are invited to a one-day workshop August 10 at the Sharon Art Studio in Golden Gate Park. The workshop will run from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Studio on Bowling Green Drive. The fees are \$15 for young people (6-15) and \$20 for adults. More info at 753-7004 or 753-7006.

At the Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St., photographer/editor Lou De Matteis will present his book "Nicaragua: A Decade of Revolution" on Aug. 15 at 8 p.m. The book features the work of 47 leading photojournalists from Nicaragua, the United States and around the world. Phone 282-9246.

Noon on Oct. 4 is the deadline for entries for the 1992 Film, Video and Screenplay competition held by the Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame, Inc. A professional panel of judges will award prizes of up to \$1,000 in a variety of categories including: Features, Animation, Music, Foreign and Television. Entries must have a Black person in a key creative position and/or have subject matter which provides cross-cultural perspectives on ethnic issues. For more info, 346-1183.

Hurray, rappers! Aug. 3 is the deadline for entry into Earth Drama Lab's Ecology-Rap Contest, Eco-Rap for short, open to all amateur Bay Area Rappers. The contest, an attempt to get the urban young talking about toxic pollution and its effect on their families, is drawing contestants from San Francisco, Oakland, Richmond and East Palo Alto. It culminates in a finals on Aug. 24 and an Eco-Rap Concert Sept. 7. Call for information at 885-0401.

San Francisco Mime Troupe's summer park season includes a Precita Park performance Aug. 18 and on Aug. 31 and Sept. 1 will be at the Sunken Meadow, Golden Gate Park (behind the De Young Museum). On Labor Day (Sept. 2) they'll be at Mission Dolores Park. All shows start at 2 p.m. with a half hour of music preceding.

The San Francisco Shakespeare Festival announces that the summer season for Free Shakespeare in the Park will be held Aug. 24 through Oct. 13 in Liberty Tree Meadow in Golden Gate Park. The 9th Annual event opens with "Medea" starring the wacky Fratelli Bologna which will preview Aug. 24 at 1:30 p.m. "Free Shakespeare's" second offering is Shakespeare's "The Tempest" which will open Sept. 29. All performances run on Saturdays and Sundays. Call 666-2222 for details.

Tour the Mission District murals with a knowledgeable guide. Hear a slide talk beforehand. All presented by the Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center at the foot of Bernal Heights, 348 Precita Avenue. The walks are scheduled every Saturday from 1:30 to 3 p.m. and cost \$3 for general admission, \$1 for children, students under 18 and seniors. More details at 285-2287.



Voices/SF, Bay Area Youth Opera (BAY-O) is holding auditions for children ages 5-16 and adults for roles in the BAYO production of "Aesop's Fables" which is billed as an "opera/musical." Dancers, singers and actors are needed for the performance scheduled for December 7 and 8. Auditions will be held on Aug. 31 and Sept. 7, and rehearsals begin soon after. Phone 431-2027 for more audition information.

FreeWheelers, a non-profit organization that takes San Franciscans who use wheelchairs on free recreational outings has been selected to host the Preview Night of the S.F. Flower Show, August 22, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the County Fair Building, 9th Avenue and Lincoln Way in Golden Gate Park. Proceeds will help support FreeWheelers which was established in 1977 and currently serves 1800 wheelchair users in more than a 1000 trips per year. Tickets are \$10.

The above-mentioned flower show is San Francisco's 53rd annual and is presented in cooperation with the Recreation and Park Department. It will run on Aug. 23 through 25 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and will show over 2300 flower exhibits from 21 different flower societies. General admission is \$3, seniors \$2, and children 15 and younger free when accompanied by an adult.

And while we're on the subject of anniversaries, the S.F. Farmers' Market will celebrate its 48th on Aug. 17. The highlight of the all-day celebration at the market site, 100 Alemany Blvd., will be a ceremony at 11 a.m. honoring 86-year-old John G. Brucato who founded the Farmers' Market in 1943. He will be presented with the coveted Garlic Wreath, symbol of the highest honor bestowed on the market's outstanding farmers.

The Gay and Lesbian Artists' Alliance will hold its monthly general meeting and potluck dinner on Aug. 3 from 6-9 p.m. at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St. Check with Steven at 863-3353 for details.

"Balancing Act," drawings and paintings by Barbara Jackson are on exhibit at the Clay Studio Gallery through August 24. The gallery is at 52 Julian Ave. Phone 431-6296.

The Bay Area Education Celebration is slated for August 17 and 18 at Stonestown Galleria. The event promises to feature the best this area has to offer for our community's education through activities for children, resources and information for young adults. Some 30 participants, from the Exploratorium to the Eniporium, from the City College of San Francisco to KQED, will demonstrate what the Bay Area has to offer both inside and outside the school gates. More info at 826-5923.

A workshop for non-profit agencies on ways to publicize and market their organizations is being held Aug. 3 and 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Reserve your seat by calling 474-2057.

ROSES (Residents of the South East Sector) meets the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at ESPRIT, 950 Minnesota St. Potrero Hill residents are cordially invited. Call 255-6297 for more details.

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# Historic Yacht a Victim In Mission Creek Fire

By Jim Kennedy

It's ironic that a catastrophe would spare a "Desperado" and destroy a "go-getter," but such was the case in the early hours of June 12 at Mission Creek.

At about 3 a.m. that windy morning an electrical short in a junction box at the China Basin Building wharf touched off a five-alarm blaze that not only damaged much of the newly refurbished building, but also took with it several of the City's choicest motor yachts — among them the "K'Thanga."

A 93-foot beauty, "K'Thanga" was mahogany and cedar planked with a teak deck and interior. It fairly reeked of history. Built in 1926 at John Twigg and Sons Boatyard near Hunters Point, it was then the property of big-game hunter H. O. Harrison. The Bantu people in Africa called the gung-ho, fearless hunter "K'Thanga," meaning "go-getter" and Harrison decided that was the name he wanted on his new yacht. He cruised his boat up the Amazon River and north to Alaska. With the onset of the Depression in 1929, however, Harrison sold the "K'Thanga."

When war struck she donned military colors, and after being painted a "haze grey" became part of President Roosevelt's "yacht patrol," doing duty as a pocket sub chaser in the waters off Newfoundland. Typically, it is said, political figures' sons were given the privileged commissions to skipper these formidable yachts.

Glenn Ghelley, the last owner of "K'Thanga," was on board with two prospective charter clients when he noticed the June 12 fire. The two guests scrambled off while he ran down to the engine room to crank up the twin GM diesels. By the time he got back on deck, the fire was so intense he dove overboard and swam down the channel to a floating dock 100 feet away. Sadly, during the panic an 18 year old beagle was left on board and perished.

What happened next was like a scene from a Stephen King novel. The fire heated up the hydraulic lines to the transmission and throttle, jamming them into "all ahead full." By this time the decklines had burned free and "K'thanga" motored directly at the Maloney bridge at Fourth Street.

"It was a scary scene," said a policeman who happened to be standing on the bridge. "Here was this long flaming boat, with nobody on it, heading straight for me! I ran to my car and got the hell out of there."

"K'Thangu" smashed into the bridge abutment and onto the south bank of Mission Creek where she burned beyond repair.

A wooden trawler, "Walrus," tied forward of "K'Thanga," also caught fire and drifted on the wind out of the west part of the Third Street Lefty O'Doul drawbridge, which was left up during the fire. She then burned along the shore.

"Felicity," a large 1895 twin headsailed sloop built at Stone Boatyard — where the St. Francis Yacht Club now stands — was spared major damage. A friend of the owner had been sleeping aboard. When he was awakened by the fire he quickly cast off the dock lines, then drifted past the O'Doul bridge. He extinguished the flames on the starboard side and raised the foresail. "Felicity's" owner, Lyle Kent later said, "Fortunately he is a sailor and knew what to do, although he wasn't able to start the engine until I got to him at the Bay Bridge."

"Ruby," a large steel sailboat, for many years successful as a charter boat, suffered a damaged hull and sails. The sails melted and the hull warped, making repair a costly proposition. Both Ruby and Felicity went to the S.F. Boatworks at the foot of Potrero Hill for repairs.

Two boats that normally tie up at Mission Creek luckily were elsewhere when the conflagration occurred. "Renegade," a huge ferro-cement schooner, was in Mexico. "Lindesness," a large Norwegian ketch, was undergoing repairs at Pier 66.

Surveying the charred scene from the parking lot on the southside of the channel where the Tic Toe drive-in once stood, I noticed an unusual sight. A lone craft, "Desperado," floated at her mooring. The lapstreak, white folkboat sat forlornly as if to say, "Hey, where'd everybody go?" From where I was looking she seemed to have escaped the tragedy intact. Not so the go-getter, "K'Thanga."

## BEFORE THE FLAMES...



William Brunot photo

## ...AND AFTER



The "K'Thanga" (second from right in top photo) sits alongside the China Basin Building between the Maloney and O'Doul bridges in happier, calmer days of sailing. Below can be seen the charred remains of the wharf with a lone small boat tied up by the remains of the dock. Work is currently underway on repairs to the building.

Ruth Passen photo




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RIOS EXHIBIT



Michael Rios, artist-in-residence at the Neighborhood House on Potrero Hill, will be featured in a collection of paintings and drawings at the La Raza Graphics Center, 938 Valencia St., Aug. 19 - Sept. 27. Rios, a professional artist for over 22 years, is well known as a muralist, painter, and teacher. He is better known locally for some of the outstanding murals found in the city's Mission District, such as the tribute to Carlos Santana; a BART mural; "Children of the World" at the mini-park on 24th Street; the Bank of America mural at 23rd and Mission Streets; a mosaic at San Francisco General Hospital; the Community Law Collective Mural at 18th and Dolores Streets; "El Faro Mexican Foods," and countless other works in the community. The artist is seen above working on a mural about the '20s for an event at the Neighborhood House.

Ruth Passen photo



HILL SCULPTOR AT FAIR



Hill artist Doug Anderson displays his sculpture at the annual Pacific States Crafts Fair, Aug. 10-12, at the Fort Mason Center.

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# View Softballers Ready To Defend Media Crown

By Tom Murray

Last year's Media Softball League champs, the Potrero View Gouts, are back for yet another fun filled season. If last season was noted for the team's first title and many retirements, this season will go down thus far as the year of the injury.

At one point four View starters were on the injured reserve list. Long time View centerfielder and championship Co-MVP Art Pulaski is still sidelined as a result of two diving, neck-wrenching catches. He has been working out in the minors and hopes to get back to the big Club before the season ends or before his career does.

The View has added reinforcements to its roster while retaining a variety of seasoned veterans. New to the club is David Sondheim, who has taken up any slack in the batting order by uncorking eight majestic home runs thus far. Also new is Rick 'Rogue' Gurling, who has been holding down third base nicely, and Andy 'Mad Doctor' Zuckerman. The Zuck is known not only for his bat and glove, but his sawdust-like wit as well. Let us not forget View regular and local heroine, Delene Wolf. After two years on the shelf with a little minor leaguer to show for her efforts, Wolf is back with a vengeance and a .552 batting average!

The View is rounded out by returning veterans at the other positions. Former coach and media league Commissioner Jim Briggs is playing a mean second base while continuing to slash solid hits to all fields. Hill local Joe Pierce, the darling of many a fancy, continues to look and act young and fit out in left field. Lynn Reimer, of the solid play at first and unprintable cheers, has returned for another season with the squad.

Fred Weiner, back from off-season knee surgery, has jumped back in to con-

tribute diving catches and solid hitting. Linda Hock, suffering only from a broken shin and two dislocated toes, has also returned from the injured reserve to continue to rip the cover off the ball. Joe Wilson has stepped into center field with a big bat and sarcasm to spare, keeping the spot warm for Pulaski. Jennifer Ikuta has come back to show her winning spirit while recording a number of put-outs at the plate. Steve Mielenhausen has been down temporarily with a knee injury, but as the other half of the championship Co-MVP, he has sparked the club with his hot hitting and glove work.

Christee Earle has been seen on a more regular basis in a View uniform as she patrols the outfield with authority and continues to hit those shots down the left field line. Lefty Joe Wolfcale remains a tough opponent on the mound, posting the lowest ERA in the league. This leaves none other than Coach Tom Murray, who attempts to keep this group under control and game-ready every Sunday throughout the season. Murray has guided the troops to a 6 - 2 record, good enough for a one game lead in Division 1.

The team has been struggling this year with less than sterling defense to go with its occasionally anemic hitting. But somehow the View has managed to limp, swear and squeak through a few close games to retain the mid-season lead.

After its impressive 19-1 season of a year ago, the View started the year in the loss column by going down to defeat to rival Media Alliance 10-9. The View then rebounded for four straight victories before embarrassing themselves to arch-rivals East Bay Express. Since then, the fabulous View 10 have shot back with two more resounding victories, the last one being a 33 - 13 drubbing of D'Leite Media. Stay tuned for the continuing saga of the sand - lotters as the season stretches off into the fall.



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## GONE FISHIN'



Neighborhood kids lucky enough to get a place on fishing boats July 17 brought salmon home for dinner that night. The program is sponsored by a San Francisco Police unit for youngsters which offers these trips during the summer months. The Neighborhood House gets one trip each summer and is able to secure places on the boat for 13 children aged 1-16 years.

Ruth Possen photo

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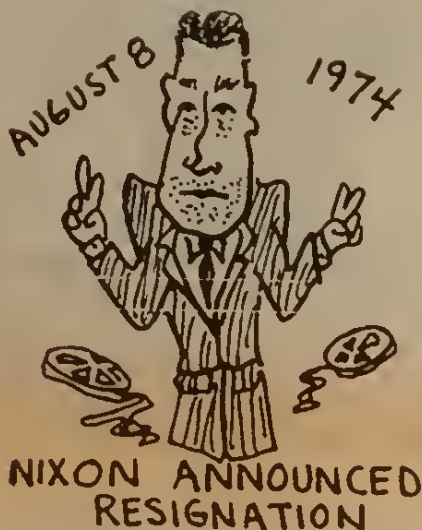
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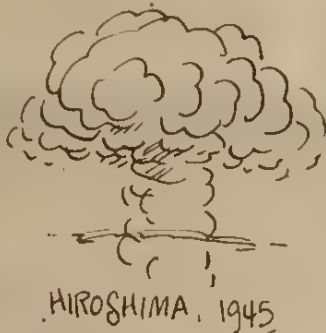
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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY ...**

**HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAY:** Lenny Anderson, Doug Beechen, Sue Bierman, Shaun and Kevin Brickhandler, Julie Caboara, Lena Carmena, Phil DeAndrade, Jack Louis Dyson, Mike Eklund, Peter Eres, Nancy Fox, Bill Goff, Larry Gonick, Ray Hansen, Frank C. Hatten, Jim Herman, C.J. Hirschfield, Peter Hyun, Terry Ivy, Kim Joyce, Ellie Katz, Julie Kavanagh, Miriam Kaye, Brian Kessler, Marvin Kurtz, Michael Madrigal, Emmett Maguire, Kazuhito Makita, Enola D. Maxwell, Cathy Passin, Tamara Patri, Ambur Rector, Joanna Roberts, Lori Jean Robinson, Paul Sarvis, Anna Schwartz, Walter Stack, Michael Sullivan, Isidor Tani, Charnika Watson and Rege Wood.

## The Good Life Grocery Gets Better

On approximately August 15, 1991, The Good Life Grocery will open a second store at 448 Cortland Avenue on Bernal Heights. This store has been a gleam in our eyes for a while and now it comes to fruition. We are very proud.

Our Potrero Hill store will operate as usual. You can continue to rely on us for fresh produce, quality natural food and all the other fine products that make each day a tasty treat. We will just be doing the same thing on Bernal Heights as well.

Your support over the years has enabled us to expand and to offer to Bernal Heights a neighborhood-serving natural food store that they have been lacking for quite some time now. We thank you for that support and we look forward to seeing all those Potrero Hill ex-patriates now residing on that cozy hill to the south - waiting for the Good Life...

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